

REMARKS

This Amendment is accompanied by a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time, and the related extension fee.

The Examiner rejected pending claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) [sic §103(a) ?] as describing subject matter considered by the Examiner to be obvious from U.S. Patent No. 6,151,020 (Palmer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,031,529 (Migos). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reexamine the present application, and to reconsider the aforementioned rejection of the pending claims, in view of the claim amendments made above, and in light of the remarks that follow.

The Examiner's principal reference, Palmer, is directed to a system for allowing two or more users to share graphical display information, thereby providing a "collaborative tool" that allows two or more users to collaborate and jointly modify a graphic image. This objective is described at col. 1, lines 17-24 of Palmer:

"... At times, however, there is required the ability to enable multiple team members at differing physical locations to simultaneously view and/or interact with any computer program or set of data. All participating team members must be able to provide inputs, and see their results of their own and other team members' inputs in real time. Such functionality is provided in general by software products referred to as "collaborative tools"."

In this regard, Palmer states that it is desirable to enable team members to share partial displays of application windows; see col. 1, lines 41-47. Accordingly, the activities of one team member are not independent of the activities of other team members.

Palmer's system includes a server (10) and two or more client systems (12, 14) connected by a computer network. The display screen of server 10 includes a shared region (18). Likewise, each of the client systems has a display screen that includes a client application window (22, 26). As explained at col. 3, lines 22-28 of Palmer, Palmer's system serves "to replicate the shared region 18 in the client application window 22 and client application window 26 respectively."

In contrast, pending claim 1, as amended above, recites a method of collectively generating for acquisition user-created designs of products wherein a plurality of users run independent program sessions of graphic design software on the remote host system via a communications network. In running such independent program sessions, each user selects a target product to be designed, each user creates his or her own final design of such target product, and each user submits his or her respective final design to the remote host system for storage on the data storage of the remote host system.

Whereas Palmer's goal is to allow team members to collaborate by observing, and contributing to, design modifications made by other team members, the method described by claim 1 is directed to independent efforts of two or more users who each, without sharing their modifications with others, create their own competitive designs for independent submission. Thus, Palmer's collaborative tool system does not suggest the method of claim 1; rather, it teaches away from the method recited by claim 1.

While the Examiner has also relied upon the patent to Migos for its disclosure of target product modules and other graphic tools, Migos does not disclose or suggest the modification of Palmer from anything other than a collaborative tool. Certainly, Migos would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Palmer's system to preclude one team member from observing modifications made by another team member within Palmer's shared region 18.

Independent method claim 4 has likewise been amended to emphasize that each user runs an independent program session of the graphic design software on the remote host system, i.e., independent of other users who may be creating competitive designs. Each user runs an independent program session of the graphic design software on the remote host, and each user creates and submits his or her own final design of the target product to the remote host. Thus, the method of claim 4 is also patentably distinguishable from Palmer, either taken alone or in combination with Migos.

Claim 7 recites a system for collectively generating for acquisition user-created designs of products via a communications network wherein two or more users run independent program sessions of graphic design software on the remote host system, and each user creates and

submits his or her own final design of the target product to the remote host. Likewise, claim 8 recites a system for collectively generating for acquisition user-created designs of products via a communications network wherein two or more users each run an independent program session of graphic design software on the remote host; each of the users creates his or her own final design using the graphic tool module on the host system, and each user independently submits the respective user's final design to the remote host system for storage thereon. Palmer's collaborative tool system simply fails to suggest the networked systems of claims 7 or 8, wherein two or more users operate independently of each other in a competitive design environment.

New claims 9-20 have been added by amendment above to better address other aspects of Applicant's invention. Method claim 9 recites a method of generating product designs wherein a plurality of independent users are each provided access to graphic design software and product data via the communications network, each user independently creating and submitting that user's final design to the remote host system. New independent system claim 12 is directed to a system for generating product designs wherein a plurality of independent users are provided access to graphic design software and product data on a remote host system, each user independently creating and submitting that user's final design to the host provider. New method claim 14 recites a method of generating product designs wherein product data, of a type associated with graphics design software, is provided on a host system for access over a communications network by remote user client systems; a plurality of independent users are permitted to independently access such product data to independently create a plurality of user-created designs for such product, and the independently created product designs are received from each of the participating independent users. New system claim 18, and new method claims 19 and 20, set forth related aspects of Applicant's invention, and in each case, respective user's submit independent designs. In contrast, Palmer teaches sharing of designs among team members, rather than creation of independent, competing designs by a two or more unrelated users.

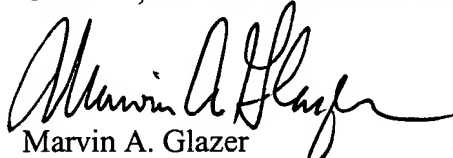
For the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that pending claims 1-8, as amended,

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patentably distinguish Applicant's invention from the prior art applied against such claims by the Examiner within the Office Action. For the reasons mentioned above in regard to newly-added claims 9-20, such added claims also describe subject matter that is novel and non-obvious. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue an early notice of allowance for the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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